

OFFENSIVE PARTISANS

REBUKED BY COMM'N OBERLY.
He Lays Down the Law and the Gospel to
Those Democrats who do not Practice
What they Preach—He Reminds them
of the Profession Made at the

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 29.—Colonel John H. Oberly, of the Civil Service Commission, has written a letter to Mr. Charles L. Spencer, who, on behalf of the Illinois

invited Mr. Oberly to address the association this evening. The Illinois Democratic Association is a political association of clerks in the Government Department service from the State of Illinois.

DEAR SIR:—I have come to the conclusion that I cannot accept the invitation of the Illinois Democratic Association, courteously extended me by you as the committee from that body, without violating my official obligation.

and continuance in that part of the executive civil service known as classified civil service, should be upon the merit of the applicant or employee, without regard to political opinions or affiliation.

This position is justified by many considerations, all of which lead irresistibly to the conclusion that the Civil Service act of 1883 was enacted for the purpose of providing non-partisan service.

follows, therefore, that this law should be executed in a strictly non-partisan manner; and from this proposition logically follows the conclusion that no officer charged with its execution can be effective in the discharge of that duty, if, by active participation in party politics,

destroys the confidence of the public in his firmness and impartiality. A civil service Commissioner or a civil service Examiner, as a member of a political committee, or as a member, patron or encourager of a political association, composed of persons in the public employ, who

bers of one political party, organized for the purpose of putting certain other political partisans from office, would certainly be out of place, and the public would be justified in the conclusion that, in the discharge of his official duties he might be unsafe.

The Commission has expressed the opinion that a Republican in public service has a right to entertain strong political views, and to give, at the proper time, strong expression to those views.

The position may be perverted into an appearance of inconsistency with the position that the Illinois Democratic Association may not, with propriety, be patronized or encouraged. It may be held

that there can be no legal or other good objection that can be brought against the policy of Democrats in the public service organizing as you have done for the purpose of being active in the effort to promote interest in the administration. In other words, it may be said that there is an unwillingness on my part to give Demo-

ages that are accorded as of right to Republican office holders. A candid consideration of the Illinois Democratic Association, in the light shed upon it by several sections of the civil service act will, however, show you that my objec-

Mr. Oberly then quotes the sections of the Civil Service act, one and fourteen, which prohibits employees from either

and continues: "It should not be forgotten that the provisions of the Civil Service act to which I have referred, and other similar provisions of that act, were passed while the Republican party was in power, and when the Republicans were

It should not be forgotten by Democrats that the penal sections of the Civil Service act were aimed at the system of robbery by assessment and solicitation, and at all the instrumentalities to which that system was made effective.

DEMOCRATS MUST BE CONSISTENT.
The penal clause of the Civil Service act did break the power of the partisan collector, who robbed the clerks of the departments by using Republican state appointments as his means of favoritism.

as his burglar tools. Over this result Democrats everywhere rejoiced, and in 1884, as a consequence of the enactment of the Civil Service act, they had a fair fight with their opponents, and won a famous victory. And now, may I not be excused for saying that B

not imitate the wrong practices of the worst Republicans, by organizing the officers, clerks and other employees of departments at Washington, into State associations, the purposes of which are partisan, and all the money collected or expended har-

pended, given and handed over, received and applied, as the law expresses it, for partisan purposes, and for the promotion of political objects, all of which practices the Civil Service law denounces as unlawful and punishable by fine and imprisonment, respectively.

ices are persons in the employ of the United States. I believe the Democrats should practice in power what they preached while out of power, and that they should not follow the evil example set them by the party they have succeeded in the place of.

the Republic.
I beg to assure you that I am, with
much respect,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN E. OBERLY.

**Will Favor Home Rule for Ireland but no
Dynamite.**
New York, Sept. 29.—Several of the
more prominent Englishmen residing in
New York have, for some time past, been

quently preparing a plan for the purpose of perfecting an organization for political purposes, and as a result of their deliberations have issued a call for a meeting to consider the project formally. The circumstances calling the meeting together

nearly all the English residents of the city and states that "the question of naturalization of British residents having become, from the very force of circumstances, of vital importance to Englishmen who have made this country their home, we believe that Mexico

remain no longer dormant in the matter." The present intention is to form a branch of the Sons of St. George, who claim to have over 10,000 voters in their ranks. There are 57,000 British subjects in New York and Brooklyn who have not been naturalized and it is

percentage of them will join the new organization. The constitution of the new organization will favor "Home rule for Ireland, but no dynamite."

Sharp will go to Sing Sing.

to the Court of Appeals in the case of Jacob Sharp has been filed. Several eminent physicians appointed by Judge Van Brant to examine Sharp as to his condition, have reported to the Sheriff that the

and the Sheriff has been directed that he
be taken to Sing Sing to-morrow,